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NON-CATHOLIC INDOORMENT

Rev. Frank P. Clarke, at a recent Episcopalian convocation in Philadelphia took a stand in favor of Christian schools. He said among other things:

"When we see in print that so many thousands of the youth of both sexes are annually placed under restraint with a view to the reformation of their lives, if we think as we read and do not merely glance over the statistics out of complaisance to some one who is more interested in the subject than we are, we will pause amazed at the figures, and they will furnish us with much food for reflection."

To strengthen his position Mr. Clark quoted from prominent Protestant authorities:

"A posthumous paper written by Professor Alexander Johnston of Princeton College was cited. From this document he made the following significant excerpts: "Even among the warmest friends of the system there is an increasing number who are disposed to think that the American common school system is mischievously encroached in its neglect of the religious element in man's nature, and that a purely secularized education is really worse than no education at all. It is on this ground that the Roman Catholic Church has officially declared its uncompromising hostility to the whole system; but there are not a few Protestants who, while detecting this opposition to the system, begin to see more reason in the basis of it than they have hitherto seen. It is, in fact, of little use to deplore the growing alienation of the body of the people from all forms of religious effort, so long as a vast machine, supported at the public charge, is busily engaged in educating the children of the nation to ignore religion."

Without attempting to settle the problem confronting the nation, Mr. Clark frankly declared that he was not afraid of it, and he was willing to say that he would join any party that would undertake to solve it upon rational lines. He was not afraid of the cry of sectarianism, and he would like to have the teachers in our public schools instruct their pupils from the scriptures, in addition to the daily reading of a brief portion therefrom to non-understanding and inattentive ears. He would rather know that there were embryonic Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, yes, Roman Catholics, in the public schools, than to behold full-fledged agnostic heathens, wise only in worldly wisdom, turned out by them to dereligionize a country manifestly intrusted by divine Providence as a land of Christian promise.

We coincide with the Boston "Republic" that the reading of the Bible to young children is not religious instruction, and that to have selected passages expounded by a lay teacher would be a mockery.

recognized as competent for the work, and should be duly trained and commissioned. Only in separate schools can this work be rightly performed, the San Francisco "Monitor" to the contrary, notwithstanding.

THE A. P. A. IN CONGRESS

The present Congress of the United States is controlled by the A. P. A. There is no disputing the statement, as a test vote was taken last Wednesday. We quote the special despatch from Washington to the New York "World" in full:

"The House today defeated the District of Columbia Appropriation bill, the vote standing 195 yeas to 143 nays. A little later the vote was reconsidered and the bill was recommitted, with instructions to report new paragraphs making appropriations for the charities of the District.

It was all on account of the A. P. A., which had determined that none of the money usually appropriated for the charities of the District should go to any Catholic institution. At its behest the majority of the Republican members of the House, with a few Democrats, struck out of the bill every such institution, including the Church orphanage home conducted by Episcopalians, placed all such institutions having the care of children under the patronage of the Board of Children's Guardians, and then enacted that this board should not pay out any of the money appropriated to it for the use of any institution conducted by church societies or ecclesiastical organizations. The latter provision was offered by Mr. Linton, of Michigan, an A. P. A. champion.

A good many members, both Republicans and Democrats, dodged the vote when the yeas and nays were ordered, on the demand of the Democrats, so that every man might be put on record. Of the New York members only two voted for the bill. Mr. Grosvener moved to reconsider, and Mr. Crisp moved to lay that motion upon the table. Mr. Crisp's motion was defeated by a vote of 86 to 193, and Mr. Grosvener's was carried by a vote of 189 to 80, the yeas and nays being ordered in each instance.

* DEFEAT THE BILL

Now that certain legislators have announced that the Raines excise bill will be pushed through the State legislature, it is time to talk plainly. The Raines bill should not become a law. The one good feature it contains—the higher license fees is more than counterbalanced by its bad features.

First of these is the division of the license monies between the localities where received and the State Treasury. All the money paid in for license fees should go to the locality where the licensed place is situated, as that locality has to bear the expense of the criminals and paupers occasioned by the places licensed.

The second bad feature is that the Raines law would permit a man or woman of the most notorious character, provided he or she had the requisite amount of money to obtain a license next door to a residence occupied by respectable people.

The third bad feature of the Raines law is that it creates a small army of special agents who will travel about the State at public expense to see if the law is violated. This provision is a flagrant invasion of home rule, as each locality should be charged with the duty of enforcing the laws there, and should be made to bear the necessary expense.

We have too many officials now. The number should be decreased instead of increased.

The Raines bill is not a party measure, nor should it be made so in cautions. Each individual should be allowed to vote on the measure as his conscience dictates. And all conscientious legislators should vote against it.

Will Dunraven apologize? It matters not. He has demonstrated that he is the sort of gentleman (?) no self-respecting American care to associate with.

The Apologists in the present Congress should be returned to private life as soon as possible.

RIGHT IN PART

Editor CATHOLIC JOURNAL:
Dear Sir:—As the recognized medium of expression for the Catholics of this city, I desire to call the attention of the proper authorities of the Catholic Church to a long existing abuse amounting to scandal that exists at marriage ceremonies here (on invitation) attended such ceremonies in the Irish and German churches in this city, and the conduct carried on therein by a curious mob is disgraceful. The Church assumes the position of an opera house in the eyes of these persons. Non-Catholics who join the crowd through curiosity, and perhaps mockery, must feel that such ceremonies in our Church are but little consequence. It would seem to me that the contracting parties ought to have the privilege of issuing cards of admission to their friends who attend such ceremony out of respect for that solemn Sacrament, and I cannot see either justice or common sense in permitting the rabble of the streets to crowd our churches on such occasions. The churches of other denominations does not permit any such conduct, and it is certainly time that some such rule would be established in our churches. Any self-respecting Catholic would feel ashamed at the conduct carried on in our Catholic Churches to day during a marriage ceremony.

A Catholic is entirely right in his criticism of the conduct of impertinent persons who go where they are not wanted, simply out of curiosity. We have noticed such conduct on more than one occasion, not only at weddings, but at funerals. In our opinion the curious sight-seers who crowd the sidewalks in front of a church when a funeral cortege is passing in and out is far more intolerable than at a wedding.

Our correspondent is slightly in error when he says that such practices are confined to Catholic churches. It is true that at Protestant weddings the church doors are closed, except to those holding invitations; but if the contracting parties are of any special social standing, there is always a curious rabble outside the church, and the wedding party is occasioned more annoyance than if all were inside the church. It is not always the uninvited who make the most disturbance. Not infrequently ignorant persons chance to be guests, and they disgrace the church and ceremony by laughing and talking far more than the uninvited rabble.

There is one point that our correspondent has overlooked altogether. It is that Catholic Churches are supposed to be open at all times. The Catholic Church is truly of the people, and the people contribute for its maintenance; hence the people have a right to enter it, at any and all times. It may be that the uninvited person goes not to the church to pray when a wedding is in progress; but then he or she may, and should not be denied admission. It may be that the uninvited guests contribute more to the support of the church than either or both the contracting parties.

THE HOLY FATHER

F. Marion Crawford, the famous novelist writes in the February "Century" on "Pope Leo XIII and his Household." In the course of his article Mr. Crawford says: "Leo XIII is a leader by his simple nature and energetic character, as well as by his position and the circumstances of the times—the leader of a great organization of Christians—men and women spreading all over the world; the leader of a vast body of human thought; the leader of a great conservative army which will play a great part in any coming struggle. He will not be here when the battle begins, but he will leave a strong position for his successor to defend, and great weapons for him to wield, since he has done more to simplify and strengthen the Church's organization than a dozen Popes have done in the last two centuries. Men of such character fight future campaigns many times over in their thoughts, when all the world is at peace around them; and when the time comes at last, though they themselves be gone, the spirit they called up still lives to lead and conquer, the weapons they forged lie ready for other hands; the roads they built are broad and straight for the march of other feet, and they, in their graves have their share of the victories that come after."

THERE ARE OTHERS.

The "Northwestern Chronicle" says of Bishop O'Gorman, the newly appointed Bishop of Sioux Falls: "He will at once take front rank among the prelates of the country. The church requires men as leaders of her people with pen and tongue, that can defend and glorify her."

This is a very nice sentiment, very neatly put, it would come with better grace from the pen of one who did not try to belittle every prelate and priest who does not happen to think, write, and speak in the same peculiar vein he does himself. The "Chronicle" goes on to say:

"The chief mission of a bishop is not, as it may have been in the earlier missionary stages; to do ordinary parish work; it is, rather, to present the church before the country, to serve her as her mouth-piece, as her high ambassador, to open the way to her priests and people in the intellectual, moral, and social work which God wills her to undertake in the present times, if she means to conquer for Christ."

This sounds well, but we cannot help adding that if a bishop neglected to pay attention to the petty details of his episcopate, and does not keep a close watch over minor matters, he is not apt to make a great success of diocesan work. There have been several conspicuous instances of brilliant prelates and disorganized and disordered dioceses within the last five years.

"The Apologists who take it so ill that we have a Papal representative in this country, although his office is simply and wholly an ecclesiastical one," says the Boston "Republic," "can take note of the fact that Russia, the most powerful in many respects of all the European nations, has asked Leo XIII to send a representative to St. Petersburg for the ceremony of the Czar's coronation, which is to take place at a future date. This is not the first time that Russia has courted the good will of the Vatican, and St. Petersburg is not the only imperial city that desires to stand on friendly relations with the Holy See, recognizing that the Papacy is the best ally any land can have in case of emergency."

Lord Salisbury coolly informs the world that the Sultan is not responsible for the Armenian atrocities in the face of the report of the Sassoon commission, on which was a representative of the Salisbury government; that high Turkish officials took part in the massacres, and that the Sultan suppressed evidence as to how many Christians were murdered. Such is England's perfidy and England's lack of shame.

It looks as though THE JOURNAL was right when it remarked that Cecil Rhodes and Dr. Jameson were responsible for the Transvaal difficulty. Recent events tend to substantiate our opinion that neither Rhodes nor Jameson will be punished by the English government. In point of fact Rhodes is a bigger man than "old Chamberlain."

Both the great political parties must ditch the A. P. A. Let the cellar politicians of this un-American organization go it alone.

Justin McCarthy's retirement as head of the anti-Parnellites, is a loss to the Irish party. He was a safe and conservative, if not an over brilliant leader.

Benjamin Harrison's withdrawal from the Presidential race was probably dictated by information that he was really "not in it."

The annual report of Secretary Joseph Cameron, of the C. M. B. A. in New York State is gratifying in that it shows the organization is steadily increasing.

It has been demonstrated that we need not go abroad to dispose of United States government bonds. America will take them if allowed to do so.

Will the Canadian government have the courage to keep its promises to the Manitoba Catholics on the school question?

The bill proposed by the charter commissioners for the government of cities of the second class is drawn on good lines, but it is bungling and cumbersome in its details.

Day by day it is demonstrated that the United States Senate is not what it used to be.

There are other financiers in the United States than J. Pierpont Morgan, and his European banker allies.

The Catholic Church has weathered all sorts of storms for nineteen centuries, and will do so for many more.

Keep a sharp look out on the Board of Education for A. P. A. influence.

REPORTERS WANTED:
If you do not see any news from your parish in THE JOURNAL, and would like to act as our special correspondent, write us in regard to the matter. We desire correspondents in all unrepresented parishes of the diocese. Address
EDITOR CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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